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***Manner: SUICIDE***

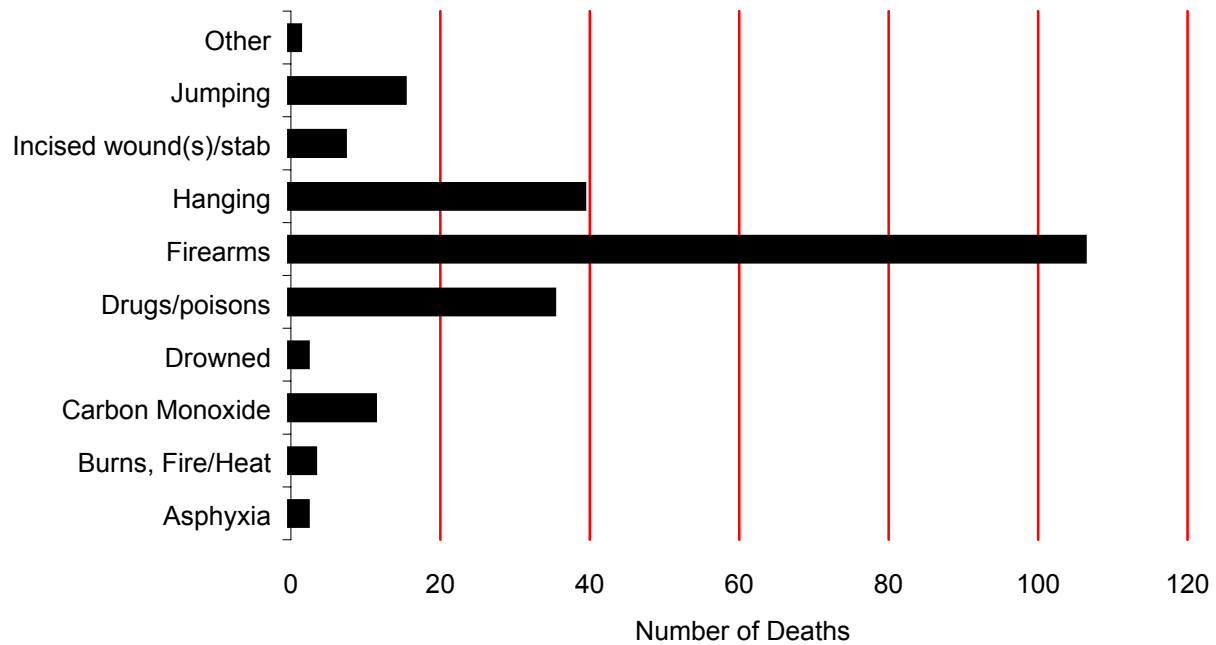
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Suicides are those deaths caused by self-inflicted injuries. In 1999 in King County there were 221 suicide deaths, accounting for 15% (221/1468) of the deaths investigated by the King County Medical Examiner's Office.

Forty-eight percent (106/221) of the 1999 suicidal deaths resulted from the use of firearms. The number of gunshot suicides (106) in 1999 is an increase over 1998 when there were 95 gunshot suicides. Hanging accounted for 18% (39/221) of suicidal deaths, while jumping from a height accounted for 7% (15/221). Drugs and poisons accounted for 16% (35/221) of all suicides (see Table 9-3, page 84 for details), while carbon monoxide caused death in 5% (11/221) of the cases. More information regarding drug caused deaths is presented in the section "Deaths Due to Drugs & Poisons." Blood alcohol tests were performed in 92% (203/221) of suicidal deaths and were positive in 32% (64/203) of cases tested.

Looking at suicides in the elderly (persons sixty years and older), in 1999 this age group represented 24% (52/221) of all suicides. As in other age groups, firearms were the primary method of committing suicide for those 60 years and older (32 in 1999). In 1999 there were 7 deaths due to drugs and/or poisons by older adults.

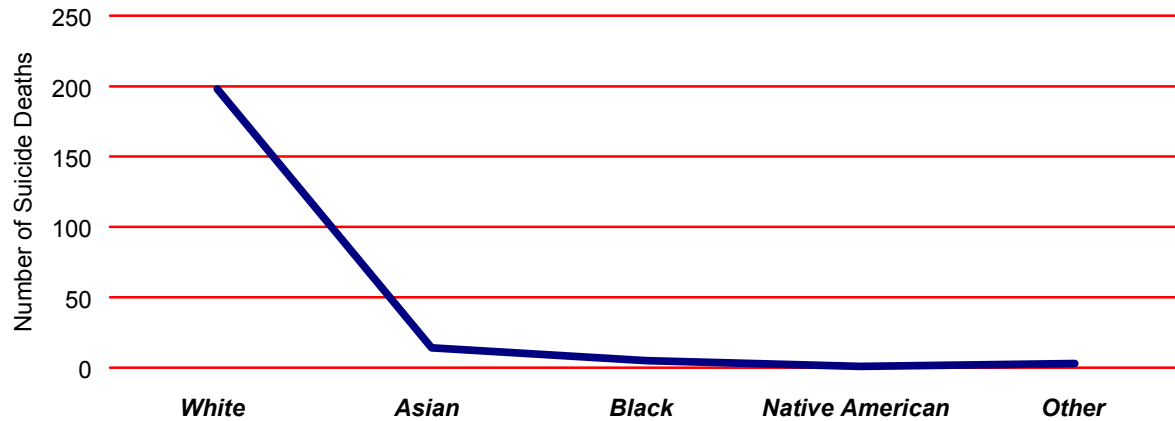
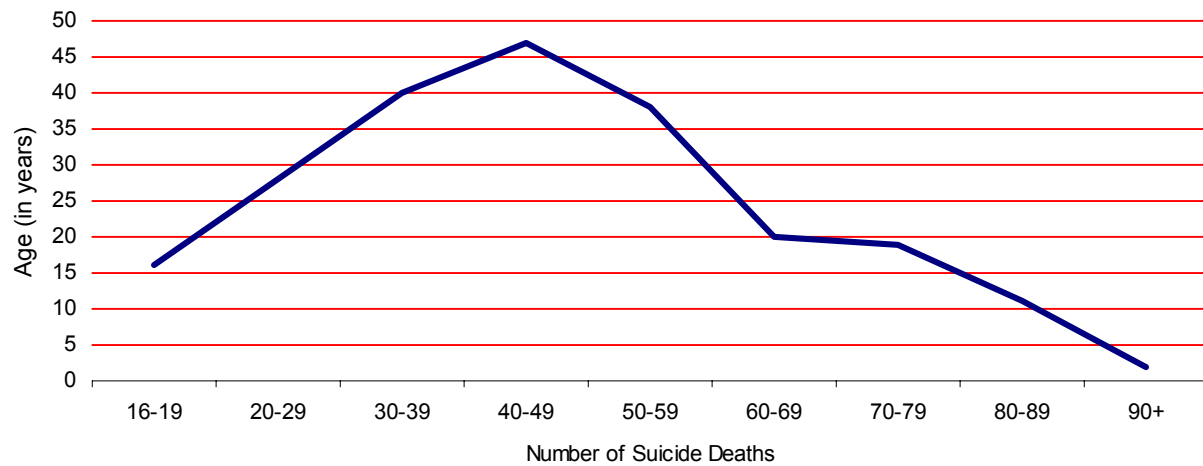
In 1999 there were 16 suicides among persons 19 years and younger (7% of all suicides), which is an increase compared to 9 suicides among this age group in 1998. Firearms were the primary method of death (44%, 7/16) for suicide among youth 19 years and younger. Drugs and/or poisons 31% (5/16) was the next highest method of suicides among youth.

**Graph 6-1 Suicide Injury Methods in 1999<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Suicide "Other" includes: 1 pedestrian who jumped in front of an automobile.

**Table 6-1 Suicide Injury Methods and Race of the Decedent**

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER		
Asphyxia (compress/mechanical)	2	0	0	0	0		2
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Burns, Fire/Heat	2	0	1	0	0		3
<i>Male</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	1	0	0	2	
Carbon Monoxide	11	0	0	0	0		11
<i>Male</i>	6	0	0	0	0	6	
<i>Female</i>	5	0	0	0	0	5	
Drowned	1	0	1	0	0		2
<i>Male</i>	0	0	1	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Drugs/poisons	35	0	0	0	0		35
<i>Male</i>	15	0	0	0	0	15	
<i>Female</i>	20	0	0	0	0	20	
Firearms	98	4	3	0	1		106
<i>Male</i>	87	4	2	0	0	93	
<i>Female</i>	11	0	1	0	1	13	
Hanging	29	0	7	1	2		39
<i>Male</i>	24	0	6	0	1	31	
<i>Female</i>	5	0	1	1	1	8	
Incised wound(s)/stab	7	0	0	0	0		7
<i>Male</i>	4	0	0	0	0	4	
<i>Female</i>	3	0	0	0	0	3	
Jumping	12	1	2	0	0		15
<i>Male</i>	9	1	1	0	0	11	
<i>Female</i>	3	0	1	0	0	4	
Other	1	0	0	0	0		1
<i>Male</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	198	5	14	1	3		221
Percent	90	2	6	0	1		

**Graph 6-2 Suicidal Deaths and Race of the Decedent****Graph 6-3 Suicidal Deaths and Age Group of the Decedent**

**Table 6-2 Suicide Injury Methods and Age Group of the Decedent**

INJURY METHOD / GENDER	AGE GROUP (YEARS)									SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +		
Asphyxia (compress/mechanical)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0		2
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0		3
Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Female	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	
Carbon Monoxide	0	3	2	3	2	0	0	1	0		11
Male	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	6	
Female	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	5	
Drowned	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		2
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Drugs/poisons	5	3	4	10	6	3	2	2	0		35
Male	3	2	2	3	1	2	1	1		15	
Female	2	1	2	7	5	1	1	1		20	
Firearms	7	13	18	18	18	11	13	8	0		106
Male	5	12	17	15	15	11	11	8	0	94	
Female	2	1	1	3	3	0	2	0	0	12	
Hanging	2	7	9	9	6	3	2	0	1		39
Male	2	3	6	9	6	3	1	0	1	31	
Female	0	4	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	
Incised wound(s)/stab	0	0	0	3	2	0	1	0	1		7
Male	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	4	
Female	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	
Jumping	2	1	6	3	1	2	0	0	0		15
Male	1	1	5	3	0	1	0	0	0	11	
Female	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	
Other	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		1
Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	16	28	40	47	38	20	19	11	2		221
Percent	7	13	18	21	17	9	9	5	1		

**Table 6-3 Suicide Injury Methods and Gender of the Decedent**

INJURY METHOD	GENDER		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia (compress/mechanical)	0	2	2
Burns, Fire/Heat	1	2	3
Carbon Monoxide	6	5	11
Drowned	1	1	2
Drugs/poisons	15	20	35
Firearms	93	13	106
Hanging	31	8	39
Incised wound(s)/stab	4	3	7
Jumping	11	4	15
Other	1	0	1
Total	163	58	221
Percent	74	26	

**Table 6-4 Suicide Injury Methods and Marital Status of the Decedent**

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	MARITAL STATUS					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	SINGLE	MARRIED	DIVORCED	WIDOWED	UNKNOWN		
Asphyxia (compress/mechanical)	0	1	0	1	0		2
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	1	0	2	
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	2	1	0	0		3
<i>Male</i>	0	1	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	1	0	0	2	
Carbon Monoxide	4	3	3	1	0		11
<i>Male</i>	2	2	2	0	0	6	
<i>Female</i>	2	1	1	1	0	5	
Drowned	1	0	0	1	0		2
<i>Male</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Drugs/poisons	15	9	8	2	1		35
<i>Male</i>	8	3	3	1	0	15	
<i>Female</i>	7	6	5	1	1	20	
Firearms	27	35	32	8	4		106
<i>Male</i>	24	30	29	7	3	93	
<i>Female</i>	3	5	3	1	1	13	
Hanging	11	15	9	1	3		39
<i>Male</i>	6	14	8	1	2	31	
<i>Female</i>	5	1	1	0	1	8	
Incised wound(s)/stab	1	4	1	0	1		7
<i>Male</i>	0	2	1	0	1	4	
<i>Female</i>	1	2	0	0	0	3	
Jumping	4	4	5	0	2		15
<i>Male</i>	3	2	4	0	2	11	
<i>Female</i>	1	2	1	0	0	4	
Other	0	0	0	0	1		1
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	63	73	59	14	12		221
Percent	15	17	14	3	3		

**Table 6-5 Suicide Injury Methods and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Decedent**

METHOD	TESTED			TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	NOT TESTED	
Asphyxia (compress/mechanical)	0	2	0	2
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	2	1	3
Carbon Monoxide	4	7	0	11
Drowned	1	1	0	2
Drugs/poisons	6	28	1	35
Firearms	34	65	7	106
Hanging	16	20	3	39
Incised wound(s)/stab	2	2	3	7
Jumping	1	12	2	15
Other	0	0	1	1
Total	64	139	18	221
Percent	29	63	36	